

Delayed Reaction to Trauma

Figure in chapter: Ganzel, B., Kusmal, N., Cheatham, C., Hector, P. & Clarke, D. (accepted). Trauma-informed long-term care. In R. Perley (ed.), *Managing the long-term care facility: Practical approaches to providing quality care* (2nd Edition, Chapter 3). John Wiley and Sons.

Box 3.9

DELAYED REACTION TO TRAUMA
Signs & Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress

Possible Delayed Emotional Reactions YES/ NO source _____
Irritability; Aggression; Negative affect; Distress at trauma reminders; Fear of trauma happening again; Negative thoughts about self; Detachment; Feelings of vulnerability; Mood swings; Grief reactions.

Possible Delayed Physical Reactions YES/ NO source _____
Nightmares; sleep disturbance; Hypervigilance/Heightened startle; Persistent fatigue; Changes in appetite or digestion or cortisol levels; Lowered immune function/more colds and infections; Focus on aches and pains

Possible Delayed Cognitive Reactions YES/ NO source _____
Intrusive memories; Flashbacks; Exaggerated self-blame or blame of others about the event(s); Difficulty concentrating; Belief that avoidance or other behaviors will protect them from trauma; Avoidance of trauma-related feelings or memories or preoccupation with the event; Panic & phobia-like behavior in response to trauma triggers; Inability to remember key features of the trauma

Possible Delayed Behavioral Reactions YES/ NO source _____
Avoidance of event reminders ; Decreased interest in activities; Risky or destructive behavior; Isolation/withdrawal; Disrupted social relationships; History of abuse of alcohol or drugs

Possible Delayed Existential Reactions YES/ NO source _____
Questioning (“why me”), disillusionment, cynicism; Loss of purpose or faith; Hopelessness; Also potential adaptive responses such as re-establishing priorities, redefining meaning and importance of life, reviewing life assumptions to accommodate trauma.

Adapted from HHS (2014). *TIP-57*, pp. 61-62.